

MEMO

TO: Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)
FROM: Molly Hoffman, Senior Regional Planner, Environmental Planning, hoffman@scag.ca.gov
DATE: November 6, 2003
SUBJECT: Air Resources Board (CARB) – Public Hearing to Consider Approval of the Proposed 2003 State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revisions

Recommended Action:

Receive and File

Summary:

The Air Resources Board (ARB) will consider approval of the revised State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley at a public hearing on October 23, 2003. The Air Quality Management Plans (AQMPs), adopted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), define the strategy to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Ozone and PM10. The plan provides the local, state and federal control strategies as well as the process for identifying long-term measures by 2007 as required by the Clean Air Act. Following adoption of the South Coast and Coachella SIP, the Executive Officer of the ARB will submit the SIP elements to USEPA for approval.

Background:

The ARB will consider approval of the revised SIP for the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley at a public hearing on October 23, 2003. The AQMPs, adopted by the SCAQMD, define the strategy to attain the NAAQS for Ozone and PM10.

The August 25, 2003 ARB Staff Report for the proposed hearing provides an analysis of the SIPs and staff recommendations for approval. The report outlines the local, state and federal control strategies as well as the process for identifying long-term measures by 2007 as required by the Clean Air Act.

The State strategy includes 19 near-term defined measures that ARB Staff would develop which includes measures for on-road vehicles, off-road equipment, marine vessels/ports, fuels and refueling, and consumer products. The plan also outlines a strategy to adopt additional measures by 2006 and a long-term commitment to identify further additional measures by 2007.

The ARB staff report states that while USEPA is proposing several initiatives that would help reduce emissions, the agency has stated its unwillingness to make a legal commitment of any new emission reductions to be credited in the 2003 Ozone SIP for the South Coast Air Basin. USEPA has also stated its intention to disapprove the 2003 Ozone SIP if it explicitly relies on federal action

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to achieve any further reductions in the attainment demonstration. As a result there are no near-term federal control measures in the 2003 Plan.

The 2003 South Coast SIP includes the defined local measures adopted in the 2003 AQMP by the SCAQMD. ARB staff have also identified some opportunities that may allow SCAQMD to achieve additional emission reductions to meet the region's long-term attainment target. These include further reductions from stationary sources such as industrial coating and solvent operations, fugitive sources, livestock waste as well as the NOx RECLAIM program.

The ARB proposes approval of the emission reduction by SCAG, which represents the carrying forward of SCAG's commitment in the 1999 SIP. Given the challenging long-term emission reduction target for the region, ARB expects SCAG to actively participate in the process of identifying the innovative long-term strategies that will be needed by 2010. ARB also encourages SCAG to bring forward "green" policies, which may produce sustainable emission reductions through reduced vehicle trips and trip lengths, before its committees and Regional Council to provide an opportunity for the RTP to provide the maximum air quality benefits possible.

Following adoption of the South Coast and Coachella SIP, the Executive Officer of the ARB will submit the SIP elements to USEPA as revisions to the California SIP. EPA has six months from the submittal date to perform a SIP completeness determination. Subsequently, EPA will review the plan and make a finding on its approvability.